

## Message Text

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64

ORIGIN AGR-10

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P 112249Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 059765

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ZA

SUBJECT: PRICES AND AVAILABILITY OF U.S. HARD WHEAT

REF: LUSAKA 0589

1. APPROXIMATE PRICES OF U.S. HARD WINTER WHEAT AS OF MARCH 10, 1976 BASIS FOB GULF PORTS AS FOLLOWS: NO. 2 HARD WINTER ORDINARY - \$155 PER METRIC TON; NO. 2 HARD 12 PER CENT PROTEIN \$159 PER METRIC TON.

2. OUR ESTIMATE OF HARD RED WINTER WHEAT FOR JULY/JUNE 1975/76 SEASON (FROM 1975 CROP) IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING STOCKS (JULY 1, 1975) 5,062

PRODUCTION (1975) 28,740

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IMPORTS 0

TOTAL SUPPLY	33,802
DOMESTIC USE	7,267
EXPORTS	18,643
ENDING STOCKS (JUNE 30, 1976)	7,892

3. ACREAGE SEEDED TO HRW APPEARS TO BE UP ABOUT 4 PERCENT THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, DRY CONDITIONS IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN PLAINS ALONG WITH EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER THIS WINTER HAVE RAISED GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT CROP PROSPECTS. YIELDS COULD WELL AVERAGE BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVEL AND EVEN WITH A LARGER HARVESTED ACREAGE, HRW PRODUCTION IN 1976 COULD FALL BY 4 TO 6 MILLION TONS SHORT OF THE 1975 HARVEST.

4. EVEN IF THERE IS THIS MAGNITUDE OF PRODUCTION DECLINE, EXPORT SUPPLY WILL BE ADEQUATE GIVEN THE INCREASED CARRYOVER STOCKS FROM THE 1975/76 SEASON. FURTHERMORE, PROSPECTS FOR 1976 PRODUCTION OF OTHER TYPES OF U.S. WHEATS ARE GOOD TO EXCELLENT PRESENTING FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTITUTION FOR HARD WINTER WHEATS, BOTH IN THE DOMESTIC AND EXPORT MARKET. ALSO, PROTEIN LEVEL OF 1976 HARD WINTER WHEAT CROP WILL MOST LIKELY BE HIGHER THAN 1974 CROP.

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## Message Attributes

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